GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4642
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015
GLOBAL HUB FOR NATURAL CALAMITIES
Subbareddy Shri Yerram Venkata

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an international conclave was held recently in Kerala and made certain recommendations on disaster forecasting for finalising the same by Heads of Global Space Agencies in Mexico;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which Government takes this as an opportunity to showcase its potential and become leader in disaster forecasts;

(d) whether the country is to be designated as the global hub for forecasting and managing natural disasters like tsunamis, cyclones and earthquakes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and its likely benefits?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a-b) Yes Madam. International Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Management - Space Based Systems and their Applications: Technological and Legal Perspectives (i3CDM) was held during February 26-28, 2015, at Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram, India. The meeting was organised by the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) ,International Institute of Space law, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. Of India and the Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The conference theme was on climate change and disaster management. In order to reduce uncertainties in climate assessment and prediction the following suggestions were made:

1. Studies unequivocally show that Climate Change is real. Extreme weather events, including intensities of cyclones and probability of heat waves, are on the increase. Imprints of the changing Climate are felt in the Indian summer monsoon dynamics as well.

2. While estimating the magnitude of past climate change, it is essential to remove long- period oscillations (including the 30-year and other periodic variations) which are clearly manifested in precipitation. It is also felt that the future climate simulations should also include the potential impacts in the middle atmosphere.

3. Uncertainties in the future climate projections through models are quite large. That needs to be addressed adequately through targeted R&D efforts. Issues identical towards such efforts are presented in the Annexure.

(c) India's global scale accomplishments in building and operating world class Cyclone, Tsunami and Storm Surge early warning systems was prominently showcased in the conference. Efforts of India serving as Regional Tsunami Service Provider (RTSP) for tsunami warning and Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre (RSMC) and for UN-ESCAP for cyclone warning was greatly appreciated.

(d-e) No Madam.